



## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### OSPREY PILOT, CREW HONORED FOR HEROIC RESCUE OF AIR FORCE PILOT IN LIBYA



The pilot and flight crew of an MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266 Reinforced received Air Medals with the combat distinguishing device for valor at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., Jan. 7 for rescuing a downed Air Force pilot in Libya in 2011. Capt. Erik Kolle and crewmembers Staff Sgt. David Potter and Sgt. Daniel Howington were deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit off the coast of Libya during Operation Odyssey Dawn when they received a call that an Air Force



F-15E Strike Eagle jet had crashed inside Libya. Acting only on the last known location of the pilot, Kolle and his crew took

to the sky in the versatile Osprey and retrieved the fellow service member in less than an hour from the time they launched 130 miles away off the USS Kearsarge. [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett presents the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl trophy to the East Coast team for their 17-14 win against the West Jan. 4. The Semper Fidelis Bowl is unique because it brings together some of the nation's top high school student athletes who excel not only on the field but in the classroom and in their communities as well. *(Photo by Sgt. Scott Schmidt)*



## IN THE NEWS

### STUDENT ATHLETES, MARINES VICTORIOUS AT SEMPER FI BOWL



More than 100 student athletes from across the United States can now call themselves Semper Fidelis All-Americans, and a few now claim the title of champions. The East defeated West in a 17 to 14 showdown of discipline, talent and teamwork at the second-annual Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl Jan. 4 in Carson, Calif. The bowl provided an opportunity for Marines to connect on a personal level with the players and their influencers. In doing so, they reinforced how the Marines' core values of honor, courage and commitment relate to success on and off the field.

[Read more](#)

### FIRST FEMALE GENERAL DIES



Brig. Gen. Margaret A. Brewer, the first female general officer in the Marine Corps, passed away Jan. 2 in Arlington, Va. Commissioned in 1952, Brewer quickly moved up the ranks, and in 1977 was awarded the Legion of Merit for her service as the Director of Women Marines. She retired two years later as the Director of Public Affairs. "Brig. Gen. Brewer was an amazing and courageous woman who has left an indelible mark on the rich legacy of our Corps and she will be missed," said Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Jan. 14 at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, with burial

following at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington. [Read more](#)

### 10 MARINES BECOME CITIZENS AT PARRIS ISLAND





Ten Marines from 10 different countries became U.S. citizens Jan. 3 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The ceremony was held before family and friends prior to their graduation from basic training. The naturalizations were part of a recent expansion of a federal initiative to expedite citizenship for active-duty military personnel who are or will be deployed, allowing recruits to graduate from basic training as Americans. The process involves collecting application forms, conducting the naturalization interview and administering the Oath of Allegiance. [Read more](#)

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## CAL FIRE RECOGNIZES MARINES, NAVY



Cal Fire honored San Diego Marine and Navy leaders Jan. 3 with a partnership award in recognition of progress made in developing and implementing immediate cooperative responses when fires erupt in the region. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Cal Fire, the Marines and the Navy based in San Diego County was in response to restrictions that delayed the military from immediately responding to the regions devastating Cedar Fire in 2003. The MOU was most recently activated in August 2012, serving as a model for similar programs across the country. [Read more](#)

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## PRESIDENT WILL BE HONORED BY HIS "OWN"



"The President's Own" United States Marine Band is participating in the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21. President Barack Obama will be sworn in for his second term with the Marine Band playing directly below his podium. After U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. administers the oath of office, the band will honor the president with "Hail to the Chief," an inaugural tradition that dates back to the inauguration of Martin Van Buren in 1837. The band will then assume its honorary role in the inaugural parade. [Read more](#)

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## YUMA MARINES HELP SAVE ENDANGERED MAMMAL



Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., recently participated in a joint effort with state and federal agencies to capture, vaccinate and relocate Sonoran pronghorns to historic ranges in southwest Arizona. The Sonoran pronghorn, the fastest land mammal in North America, is an endangered desert sub-species of the antelope family. Pronghorns, protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1967, are smaller and lighter in color, uniquely adapted for surviving desert conditions. The relocation effort transferred several Sonoran pronghorn from a captive breeding pen to three other locations throughout the state. Biologists hope they will merge with herds already in the areas. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### JANUARY 10, 1995

The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of U.N. peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a U.N. request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.



## SEMPER FI

## MARINE VET TRAINS SERVICE DOGS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS



A program aimed at training service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is uniting its first canine and wounded warrior in a ceremony Jan. 15. The program, launched in August 2012, was started by Marine Corps veteran Joe Tullier, a former military dog handler whom Army Maj. Jesse Greaves approached for help. Tullier trained "Buttercup," an Airedale Terrier, to help Greeves cope with PTSD. He is now working to make service dogs more readily available to other wounded warriors with varying physical and physiological needs. [Read more](#)

## OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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